1:Beaglehole and Beaglehole E-5 (1934-5)1938 Pukapukans

Informants stated that in former days there were fewer canoes than today. A tapu (*lani*) for protecting a canoe tree was instituted by making four cuts on the bole of a tree, about 6 feet from the ground. Most canoes, especially the large ones, were the property of the paternal lineage groups, each of which might own from one to three canoes. As the canoes belonged to the corporate entity, no problem of inheritance arose.

The ownership of nut trees has already been mentioned. Like trees in the reserves, individually owned trees are protected by a tapu of a coconut midrib. *Pukamo* trees are also individually owned and are very valuable in that the leaves provide the best plant material for fertilizing (*wakalepo*) the talo beds. *Pukamo* and coconut trees are planted over the buried afterbirth of the new-born child along the boundaries of homestead lots. Individual control of *pukamo* trees is carefully guarded. During the season for mulching (*wakalepo*) the talo, it is not uncommon for two women to enter into physical encounters over rights to *pukamo* trees which both claim to control.

Individual named talo beds (*ui tangata taki tai*)—twenty-two in all on Wale (see pl. 1, *A*)—are inherited in the male line, or according to bequest. They have been excavated and named by individuals in the past. Some of the names of owners, as given by informants, refer to living people, others to the original makers of the beds, one or more generations back. Few Ngake talo beds remain on Wale; most private beds were situated close to the old site of Ngake village at Utupoa, and were destroyed by the tidal wave that overwhelmed the village in 1914. The beds were filled in with sand, and have since been planted with nuts; new talo beds are being excavated now on Motu Ko.

Inheritance of other items of personal property is according to rule or by right of bequest (*wakawiti*). When an individual dies, much of his property—adzes, pearl-shell hooks and ornaments, malos, sleeping mats—is buried with him. If he dies intestate, all that remains after the survivors have fulfilled the last duties to the deceased is divided among the children, blood and adopted. When an individual has made a bequest before death, his property is divided accordingly. Fear of retribution by the spirit of the deceased if the terms of the bequest are not strictly carried out insures that the last wishes of the dying man will be fulfilled.

The house is generally inherited by children or paternal male relatives of the deceased. Two exceptions in which the house was inherited by the wife of the deceased came to light in the census.

In one household in Yato, the mother is a Loto woman, twice married. Her first marriage was with a Yato man, and residence was patrilocal. When her husband died, the widow inherited the house and occupied it in Yato. When she remarried, her second husband came from Ngake to live with her in this house. In a household in Ngake, a widow and her children continue to reside in the deceased husband's house. The widow is referred to as the owner of the house, but since her children are young,

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322 Formerly wood was too precious for any man to risk failure and wastage of wood by building a canoe himself; and today, when most men consider themselves fairly skilled with the iron adz blade, the tendency is for the layman to make for himself only a rough dugout, retaining the services of the expert for his plank canoe. The following men are considered the expert canoe builders on the island today: in Ngake village, Tiele, Iti, Iliilia, Te Ingoa, Tualai, Veti; in Loto village, Pau and Nawaui; in Yato, Tuli. The men of the Ngake group are all related. Iliilia and Tualai began as helpers (*kau wainga*) to Pau and Te Ingoa. They have since set themselves up as independent experts. Iti has just finished his first plank canoe which is generally conceded to be of the first quality. Hence Iti will soon be given his first commission, probably by a relative. Nawaui is now too old to build canoes himself, but gives advice when required and is generally considered to have passed into the class of consulting experts. Tuli is the only man of his family group who is an expert. The largest canoe on the island (60 feet long, 13 seats) was built by Te Ingoa, believed by some to be the cleverest builder on the atoll today.

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In general, a craftsman draws his assistants from his sons, brothers, or relatives, who serve voluntarily and are taught by the master all the skills of the craft, thus keeping the knowledge within the same family group. The assistants begin by sharpening the edges of the adzes as these are blunted and handed to them by the experts. They are given small jobs such as roughing out the shape of the stern piece, or making the preliminary adzing of the hull interior. Later they graduate to the more difficult finishing and fitting jobs where much skill is required to avoid bungling and wastage. In order to become a master, an apprentice must make himself a plank canoe. People come to watch his work, closely examine it from stage to stage, and entrust their own work to the would-be master craftsman only if the completed canoe passes a final criticism.

322 The chief craftsman directs all his assistants and is solely responsible
313 for the completed canoe. He selects from the bush the principal tree for the hull and the other trees necessary for hull and superstructure. The felling and rough trimming of these trees is done in the bush. Bark is removed and sections of trunk with short grain are set aside for the canoe hull, sections with longer grain for superstructure. Formerly the hull was roughly shaped in the bush by firing and adzing. Today this is done by adzing
322 only and the hull is carried or hauled to the shady place near the beach which has been set aside as a workshop. The place Matatoki on Loto beach was a well-known canoe-building yard in former days. Each expert has his own favorite workyard (*tonga waka*) where canoe timbers may be slowly seasoned in the shade before use. Today the owner has his canoe built near his own house that he may more directly oversee the workmen's

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372 The origin of fire is told in two stories:

In the very beginning of time, fire was procured for the Pukapukans by a man named Mauikatoto, a medicine man who was visited by his god in a dream and instructed how to make fire with the hearth and rubbing stick.* Mauikatoto made fire according to the directions of his god. The *kako* bird (ghost tern) was the assistant who held the far end of the hearth stick. When Mauikatoto had made fire, the tern flew up into the air and circled around him. Mauikatoto hit the tern over the eyes with the hot rubbing stick, making the black marks over the eyes which the *akiaki* bird (a white tern with a black semicircle around the upper part of each eye) carries to this day. A second version says that Mauikatoto's hands were covered with ashes, and as he grasped at the tern, the ashes marked the bird over the eyes. The following part of an old chant is quoted in support of this origin of fire:

Tutu ia i te awi na Mauikatoto,	Flamed the fire (made) by Mauikatoto,
E yolia e te kakavai,	Hearth holder the *kako* bird,
Naku kotia te vaimata o te akiaki.	I striped the outer corners of the eye of the *akiaki* bird.

The seismic wave of about 300 years ago was so disastrous that all fire was extinguished. Another legend tells how fire was brought back to Pukapuka after this catastrophe:

The god, Ngaliyeyeu, brought fire to the priest, Te Ule. There was no fire in this land. Ngaliyeyeu brought it to Te Ule. Then fire was known. At that time there were no fires belonging to the priests of the gods. Earlier they had lit their fires at the fire of Te Ule. The god of Te Ule, Ngaliyeyeu, became angry. The god said to him, "Put out your fire, that the priests of the gods won't come here to take fire to cook their fish. Leave them to eat their fish only raw. If they are without fire to cook, they won't live. They have been boasting, they fancied that the fire belonged to them." Te Ule put his fire out. The priests became frenzied. They went to Te Ule to seek fire, "O Te Ule, where is the fire?" Te Ule answered, "There is no fire." The priests of the gods ate only raw food. Te Ule got his fish, rubbed his fire till it burned, grilled his fish till cooked, put out the fire. Such was his practice.

This is the technique by which the god succeeded in getting fire: a stick, *puapua*. Split the *puapua*. Cut the one portion into a very small piece. The name of the small piece is *hawaati*. The other half of the stick, place beneath. Shave the part on top of the back of the stick. Place the *hawaati* on this place, the name of which is *ikenga*. Then rub. There are two types of rubbing; short, rapid strokes (*patumate*) the one, longer, slow strokes (*mahawati*) the other. Arrived at another, later time, Te Ule told the technique for making fire.

372 For firewood, which is fairly scarce, many parts of the coconut tree are
373 utilized: flower sheath, dry flower stems, small dry coconut shells, and
382 occasionally very dry coconut husks. Firewood is also obtained from other trees, dead branches of which are broken from the trunk or picked up from the ground and broken by beating against a tree trunk or stone. Wood obtained from the reserves is placed in coconut mats, tied with coconut fibers in a bundle, and carried home on top of the head. Gathering firewood is
372 women's work. Today, as formerly, fresh fire is made only if it is im-

* In another version of the story, Mauikatoto is said to be a god, but apparently not related to any of the three Maui brothers. Informants giving this version could not remember how Mauikatoto procured fire in the first instance.

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to this god to send fish close to the surface so that they might be more easily noosed.

Te Maungatu, another god of Yamaunga, seems to have had no special powers other than those relating to the general protection of his worshipers.

Te Mangamanga, god of Yalongo lineage of Yato, added to his general duties special duties which included the protection of the reserve of Niua, its nuts, talo and timber, and also the control of all the *ngangie* wood growing anywhere on the atoll. If anyone wished timber from Niua for a canoe, or *ngangie* for implements, he went first to the priest of Te Mangamanga, who consulted the god; if the god was willing, the priest cut down the tree or the piece of *ngangie* and gave it to the person who had requested it. For an unauthorized person to cut timber, or to steal from the reserve, constituted a theft from Te Mangamanga, and the god was quick to punish with sickness. Whales that drifted ashore also came within the special province of Te Mangamanga; it was his priest who directed the cutting up of the whale and its division among the people. No child might eat whale flesh on pain of being made sick by this god. Te Mangamanga was sometimes called *atua pouli* (god of darkness) because he was supposed to inflict his punishment under cover of darkness.

Te Tawitonga, another god of Yalongo, hissed and frightened thieves stealing talo from the beds of Niua, or from those controlled by his worshipers.

Departmental Gods

Matalolau and Matalomea resided in the mud of the talo beds. Neither religious structure nor priest was associated with them. Every time talo was taken from the beds these two gods were remembered with a gift of three or four tubers left for them in the ground.

Kanitika was originally a god who controlled the sun. Because he did not order its heat to the liking of either gods or people of Pukapuka, the four gods Te Awunawu, Te Atua Vaelua, Ngaliyeyeu and Te Alangaoa removed Kanitika from the sun with a pair of coconut fire tongs and threw him to the earth where he landed in a flash of lightning. Some informants thought Kanitika went back to the sun in a chastened spirit, since which time the days in Pukapuka have been much cooler; others believe he changed himself into an earthly god, renaming himself Te Atua Pule.

Te Alongaoa, besides being a god of Matanga lineage with ordinary duties, joined with Te Atua Vaelua, Ngaliyeyeu and Te Awunawu to make a quartet of free-lance gods who at times had the attributes of culture heroes, at other times those of departmental gods controlling winds and seas. These four were greatly given to bickering and contesting among themselves. They were specifically concerned with the control of the winds. Te Alongaoa was god